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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/540,595	06/23/2005	John P Cosier	GB 020257	9092
24737	7590	06/25/2007	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS			LE, UYEN CHAU N	
P.O. BOX 3001			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			2876	
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
06/25/2007	PAPER			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/540,595	COSIER, JOHN P	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Uyen-Chau N. Le	2876	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/23/2006</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Prelim. Amdt/Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Preliminary Amendment filed 06/23/2005.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Re claim 1, line 3: Substitute “tag reader a tag” with -- tag reader configured for reading a tag --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

5. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tuttle (US 6842121 B1).

Re claims 1-12: Tuttle discloses an apparatus and method of assisting in identifying an article/suitcase 12, said method comprising the steps of: presenting to a wearable tag reader 20 configured for reading a tag 16 associated with an article 12; communicating information held in said tag 16 to the tag reader 20; and generating an output signal that is dependent on the information communicated from the tag 16 to the tag reader 20, wherein said output signal facilitates identification of the article 12 with which the tag 16 is associated by virtue of said association being user definable and established prior to said step of communicating (fig. 1; col. 2, line 27 through col. 4, line 27); wherein said wearable tag reader is wearable on a persons finger, hand, forearm, foot or other extremity of the body (fig. 1; col. 3, lines 19-21); a user programming said tag prior to said step of communicating, wherein said information held in the tag 16 includes tag identity information, wherein said information held in the tag includes data which describes a property of the article with which the tag is associated (col. 2, lines 50-65); wherein said generated output signal is in the form of a tactile signal, audible signal , speech or other user decipherable information (col. 3, lines 26-28); wherein said tag 16 is a radio frequency

Art Unit: 2876

identification (RFID) tag (fig. 2; col. 4, lines 28-42); a user providing said tag; an article provided with a tag, said tag being suitable for use in a method of assisting in identifying an article; affixing a tag to an article, said tag being suitable for use in a method of assisting in identifying an article (fig. 4; col. 2, lines 43-49).

Remarks

6. It has been noted by the Examiner that US2002/113129 A1 reference was cited as "X" reference and US 5,640,002 A reference was cited as "Y" reference in the PCT/IB 03/05941 dated 27 April 2004.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The patents to Sackett et al (US 7047051 B2); Eneau et al (US 7031803 B2); Diamantstein et al (US 7109460 B2); Bard et al (US 6607134 B1); Bard et al (US 5793032 A); Bard et al (US 5543610 A); Paratore et al (US 6234393 B1); Norris, Jr. (US 6695207 B1) are cited as of interest and illustrate a similar structure to an OBJECT IDENTIFYING METHOD AND APPARATUS.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uyen-Chau N. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2397. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00AM-3:30PM.

Art Unit: 2876

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Uyen-Chau N. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2876

June 11, 2007